

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SSM-03 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01
/092 W

-----211409Z 123543 /45

R 211203Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5299
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION GENEVA

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GENEVA FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR, EG, XF, US
SUBJ: SADAT ON LIKUD AND PEACE: FAHD CARRYING ARAB ASSESSMENT

SUMMARY: RIYADH TRIPARTITE COMMUNIQUE, SADAT PRESS CONF, AND
CAIRO MEDIA COMMENTARY GIVE CLEAR OUTLINES OF JOINT SYRIAN/
EGYPTIAN/SAUDI MESSAGE FAHD WILL PRESUMABLY CARRY TO WASHIN-
GTON: I.E., SINCE BEGIN NO DIFFERENT FROM RABIN (BOTH "EX-
PANSIONIST") USG SHOULD NOT ALLOW DELAY IN MEPC; IF USG CHOOSES
OTHERWISE, CARDS IN ARAB HANDS INCLUDE WAR OPTION, ARAB
PUBLIC STANCE WILL BE COOL AND REASONABLE, WITH STRESS ON
STRONG DESIRE FOR PEACE BUT NOT ANY ANY PRICE. END
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SUMMARY

1. IN FIRST OFFICIAL GOE STATEMENT ON ISRAELI ELECTIONS,
SADAT SPOKE TO PRESS MAY 20 AFTER RIYADH TRIPARTITE SUMMIT.
HIS MESSAGE WAS CLEAR AND SET TONE FOR CAIRO MEDIA REPORTING
AND COMMENTARY MAY 21:

A) FAHD CARRYING JOINT GOE/SARG/SAG MESSAGE TO CARTER. SADAT EXMPHASIZED UNITY OF ARAB POSITION: ALL THREE MAJOR ARAB STATES "AGREE COMPLETELY" ON ASSESSMENT LIKUD VICTORY. FAHD WILL LAY BEFORE CARTER A "COMPLETE AND CLEAR PICTURE OF OUR COMMON CONCEPT."

B) AGREED PUBLIC STAND ON LIKUD. ABJURING EMOTIONAL EVOCATON BEGIN'S PAST, SADAT OBERVED LIKUD VICTORY A SURPRISE, BUT, SINCE ALL IRAELIS ARE HAWKS, BEGIN NO DIFFERNT THAN RABIN (I.E., ALL ISRAELIS ARE "EXPANSIONISTS"), "WE MUST TAKE THINGS CALMLY". RIYADH COMMUNIQUE IS LESS RESTRAINED ON BEGIN ("TERRORIST," KING DAVID HOTEL), BUT CAIRO EDITORIALS ECHO SADAT'S "CALM" TONE.

C) PEACE DEPENDS ON US BUT OTHER OPTIONS EXIST. "AS FOR ABILITY TO INFLUENCE WHAT HAPPENS AT GENEVA, US HOLDS ALMOST ALL THE CARDS," SADAT SAID. NEVERTHELESS, OVERALL SITUATION IS "MAINLY IN HANDS OF ARABS, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF OCT WAR." WHIILE SADAT SEEMED TO DELIBERATTELY AVOID ANY HINT OF THREAT, RIYADH COMMUNIQUE IS MORE STRAIGHTFORWARD: RIYADH CONFEREES BASE UNIFIED ARAB STRATEGY "ON FACT THAT EXTREMIST GOVT IN ISRAEL WILL BE DETERRED ONLY BY PRESSURE," THERE ARE ONLY TWO SOURCES OF PRESSURE FROM WHICH ISREAL CAN CHOOSE, I.E., "US POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PRESSURE OR ARAB MILITARY PRESSURE..." "WHAT CONCERNS ARABS IS THEIR RIGHTS; "THEY WILL ATTAIN THEIR RIGHTS." AHRAM EDITORIAL CALLS RIYADH SUMMIT AN AFFIRMATION TO ALL CONCERNED PARTIES THAT "ARAB NATION, HAVING RESPONDED TO CAUSE OF JUST PEACE, HAS NEVER BEEN DISTRACTED FROM MAINTAINING FULL READINESS FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE NATIONAL BATTLE IN ALL MILITARY AND POLITICAL DIMENSIONS."

D) SATISFACTION WITH USG RECORDED. IMPLICIT IN SADAT'S REMARKS WAS EXPRESSION OF CONFIDENCE IN CARTER. THIS TRUST EXPLICIT IN TRIPARTITE COMMUNIQUE: "ARAB LEADERS' VISITS TO WASHINGTON HAVE BEEN FRUITFUL...HAVING FOUND POSITIVE RESPONSE..." GUMHURIYYA EDITORIAL ADVISES BEGIN TO RECALL THAT BEG GURION IN 1956 CALLED SINAI "LIBERATED LAND OF HIS FOREFATHERS", BUT SHORT TIME LATER HE TOLD KNESSET HE FORCED TO WITHDRAW FROM SINAI (DUE TO US PRESSURE).

2. AS NOTED ABOVE, SADAT'S PRESS STATEMENTS FIRM, BUT ALMOST SELF CONSCIOUSLY NON-MILITANT IN TONE. TRIPARTITE COMMUNIQUE AND CAIRO EDITORIALS ARE MORE EXPLICIT ABOUT BASIC ARAB PSOTION:

A) NON-NEGOTIABLE POSITIONS. "ARABS ARE ADVOCATES OF PEACE," BUT NOT "AT ANY PRICE..." (COMMUNIQUE). "ARAB LAND IS NOT OPEN FOR BARGAINING OR DEBATE" (GUMHURIYYA EDITORIAL).

B) NO PROCRASTINATION. AHRAH EDITORIAL STRESSES SAG/SARG/GOE
"WILL NOT TOLERATE (ISRAELI) PROCRASTINATION", ADDING THAT
"RIYADH MEETING IS TANTAMOUNT TO AN ARAB WARNING TO ALL
CONCERNED THAT THE ARAB SIDE, HAVING COVERED A MAJOR DISTANCE
IN BATTLE FOR PEACE, WILL NOT BEND TO ACCOMMODATE NEW
(ISRAELI)) MANEUVERING AND PROCRASTINATION DESIGNED TO
OBSTRUCT PEACE."

3. COMMENT: SADAT'S REMARKS TO PRESS, CAIRO MEDIA COMMENTARY,
AND RIYADH COMMUNIQUE PROVIDE CLEAR DESCRIPTION OF EGYPTIAN --
AS WELL AS SAUDI AND SYRIAN -- VIEWS ON PEACE PROCESS AFTER
BEGIN VICTORY. FAHD WILL PRESUMABLY PRESENT THIS ASSESSMENT
TO PRES CARTER ON BEHALF ALL THREE MAJOR ARAB POWERS.
MESSAGE BASICALLY CONTAINS WARNING THAT US MUST NOT PERMIT
NEW ISRAELI GOVT, WHICH "DIFFERS FROM ALIGNMENT ONLY IN
FRANKNESS OF ITS EXPANSIONISM", TO DETER USG'S UNDOUBTED
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ABILITY MAKE MEPC WORK. IF US IS DETERRED, ARABS HAVE THE "POWER
AND THE WILL TO INSIST ON RESTORATION ARAB RIGHTS BY OTHER
MEANS, INCLUDING WAR. "ARAB TACTICS IN DELIVERING WHAT
AMOUNTS TO EXHORTATION TO US TO FACE UP TO "HISTORIC RE-
SPONSIBILITY" ALSO SEEMS CLEAR, I.E., ARAB DIPLOMACY
WILL BE RESOLUTE BUT "CALM;" PUBLIC STANCE OF REASONABLENESS
AND COOLNESS IS DESIGNED TO PLACE ONUS SQUARELY ON ISRAEL
IF CURRENT PEACE EFFORTS ABORT. ARAB ATTENTION TO PUBLIC IMAGE
PROBABLY REINFORCED BY FACT THAT FOR FIRST TIME SINCE 1948,
AN ISRAELI GOVT IS EXPLICITLY "EXPANSIONIST" ON WB/GAZA,
THUS OFFERING UNUSUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ARABS SCORE PR POINTS
IN EUROPE AND US.
EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Format: TEL
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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